

SOAC DATES AND DEPARTMENT HEAD DETAILING

CLASS	CONVENE	GRADUATE
14050	07 Jul 14	18 Dec 14
14060	01 Sep 14	13 Mar 15
15010	03 Nov 14	01 May 15
15020	12 Jan 15	19 Jun 15
15030	23 Mar 15	28 Aug 15
15040	11 May 15	23 Oct 15
15050	06 Jul 15	17 Dec 15
15060	08 Sep 15	04 Mar 16
16010	02 Nov 15	29 Apr 16
16020	11 Jan 16	24 Jun 16
16030	14 Mar 16	26 Aug 16
16040	09 May 16	21 Oct 16
16050	05 Jul 16	15 Dec 16
16060	06 Sep 16	03 Mar 17

The basic timeline for SOAC/Department Head detailing is shown below using SOAC class convening date as a reference. Every attempt is made to meet this timeline as close as possible:

4-8 months prior to convening date:

- Orders to SOAC issued
- Request for preferences made

1-2 months prior to convening date:

- Department Head class slating is started

Arrival at SOAC:

- Department Head assignment issued

2-3 months after arrival at SOAC:

- Orders to ship issued

Assignment Methodology

SOAC class assignments are based primarily on PRD. SOAC class sizes are limited by the number of submarines and the ability for Naval Submarine School to support that class. This can result in a small number of officers who must be shifted between classes to equalize student loading. However, these shifts normally involve only a 1-2 month delay in detaching from the previous command. Junior officers on their shore tour should contact the Division Officer Detailer at benjamin.b.long@navy.mil (901)874-3943 (DSN 882-3943) about 9 months prior to their PRD to confirm SOAC class assignments.

After the Division Officer detailer contacts the perspective students for a SOAC class, they will be passed to the Department Head detailer, LCDR Andy Domina, who can be contacted at andrew.l.domina@navy.mil or (901)874-3932 (DSN 882-3932). Once orders are issued to the class, typically about 3-4 months before class-up the detailer will send a detailed request for preferences to the class. As these preferences are requested via e-mail, ensure that you keep your current e-mail address updated on BUPERS online.

Assignments are ultimately dependent on what billets are available. Within these confines, several other factors are considered in determining an individual's assignment. These factors include previous duty history, command employment and schedule, wardroom strengths and weaknesses, individual career needs, and of course individual duty preferences. Each class must be slated as a whole to balance the various factors involved for each student. Unexpected events during the slating process or while at SOAC can lead to assignment changes, but every effort is made to prevent changing homeports during SOAC unless an individual volunteers for the change. These same issues can cause a delay in the verbal assignments issued to the class. The expectation should be to receive the assignments after arrival at SOAC, but not necessarily immediately.

Uncertainty surrounding ship schedules, split tour options, and unscheduled personnel losses in the fleet make it very difficult to determine the availability of ship billet openings more than 6 months in the future. This precludes discussing department head assignments earlier than about 2-3 months prior to the SOAC class convening date.

Please contact LCDR Andy Domina with any further questions.